

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In paragraph 4 of the Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Admitted Prior Art (APA) disclosed in Fig. 4.

In view of the rejections, claim 2 has been cancelled, and claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Also, claims 4-7 have been filed. Claim 1 covers the embodiment of Fig. 1, and claim 4 covers the embodiments of Figs. 2 and 3. New claims are not anticipated by APA, as explained below.

In APA, i.e. the embodiment of Fig. 4, a differential pressure sensor 15 measures a differential pressure of a flow resistance 14, and a pressure sensor 19 measures a pressure in a sample introducing part 17. The flow amount in the path 13 is calculated based on the values including the differential pressure sensor 15 and the pressure sensor 19 by equation (2) on page 2 of the specification.

In APA as shown in Fig. 4, the flow amount in the path 13 can be measured, and controlled. This is explained on page 3, lines 3-6 of the specification such that "However, since the conventional fluid control assembly has been made to control only one of the flow or the pressure, it was required to use different assemblies according to a purpose."

In the present invention, one fluid control assembly can measure and control the flow amount and flow pressure. Therefore, it is not required to change the assembly or control system in measuring the flow amount and flow pressure.

In claim 1, the first pressure detecting means is attached to the flow path between the control valve and the flow resistance for detecting a pressure thereat, and the second pressure detecting

means is attached to the flow path between the flow resistance and the sample introducing part for detecting a pressure thereat.

In APA, the differential pressure sensor 15 and the pressure sensor 19 measuring the inner pressure of the sample introducing part 17 are used. APA does not disclose the two pressure detecting means in claim 1.

Further, in claim 1, the control means controls the opening degree of the control valve so that flow amount or pressure in the flow path can be controlled at a predetermined value by the first and second pressure detecting means. In APA, the pressure in the flow path is not controlled.

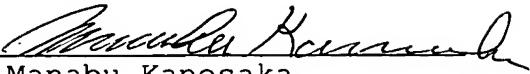
In claim 4, the differential pressure detecting means is attached to the flow path for detecting a differential pressure between two ends of the flow resistance, as in APA. However, the pressure detecting means in claim 4 is attached to the flow path between the flow resistance and the sample introducing part or between the flow resistance and the control valve for detecting a pressure thereat.

In APA, the pressure sensor 19 measures the pressure in the sample introducing part 17, not measuring the pressure between the sample introducing part and the flow resistance. In claim 4, therefore, the flow amount or pressure in the flow path can be controlled at a predetermined value by the differential pressure detecting means and the pressure detecting means. APA does not have this feature.

As explained above, claims pending in the application have the structure not disclosed by APA. Therefore, claims of the application are not anticipated by APA.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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